

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25544 01 OF 02 291924Z

53

ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-02 OIC-02

ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /092 W
----- 027854

R 291851Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3670

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25544

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: IMMEDIATE
IMPLEMENTATION ARABIC AND SPANISH POSTPONED
IN FAVOR STUDY ON WIDER USE IN 1977-78

REF: STATE 236096

1. LAST-MINUTE ARAB COMPROMISE, PRIMARILY ENGINEERED
BY EGYPT AND LEBANON, BACKED OFF FROM INSISTENCE ON
IMPLEMENTING IN 1975 ARABIC TRANSLATION/DOCUMENTATION IN
ALL INTERNATIONAL/INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS IN WHICH
THERE ARE ARAB PARTICIPANTS. SUCH IMPLEMENTATION WOULD
HAVE COST ABOUT \$2.3 MILLION ABOVE ARABIC USE FORESEEN
FOR GENERAL CONFERENCES AND 40 NATION EXECUTIVE BOARD
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PAGE 02 PARIS 25544 01 OF 02 291924Z

MEETINGS AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER COMPROMISE BUDGETARY

CEILING OF \$169.9 MILLION.

2. ARABS AGREED ULTIMATELY ON OCTOBER 26 TO AMEND OPERATIVE PARAS OF RESOLUTION TO HAVE UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL SUBMIT TO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1976 "A SCHEME TO PROVIDE FOR SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS INTO ARABIC AS FROM JANUARY 1, 1977." PARAGRAPH ESTABLISHING THAT "ARABIC TO HAVE SAME STATUS AS THE OTHER WORKING LANGUAGES" AT SUCH MAJOR MEETINGS IN WHICH ARABS PARTICIPATE, WAS PASSED WITH FORMAL NOTATION BY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT THAT THIS WILL NOT HAVE ANY BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS FOR 1975 AND 1976.

3. FINAL COMPROMISE REFLECTED LENGTHY DEBATE AND NOTABLY SHARP ALGERIAN OBJECTION IN PUBLIC, AS WELL AS EGYPTIAN, KUWAITI AND SAUDI ARABIAN REJECTION IN PRIVATE, TO "PAY-FOR-WHAT-YOU-USE" LANGUAGE POLICY OF US WHEN PRESENTED BY DELOFF. ARABS MADE QUITE CLEAR THEIR EMOTIONAL OPPOSITION BASED ON FEELING THEIR LANGUAGE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. SAUDI PERMREP TO UNESCO (AL-KHOWAITER) UNDERSTOOD PARTICULAR BUDGETARY CONCERNS OF US AS LARGEST UNESCO DONOR AND SAID THAT HAD "MAJORITY" INSISTED ON ARABS PAYING FOR ARABIC IMPLEMENTATION NOW, SAG WOULD HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO PAY ALL COSTS.

4. HOWEVER US WAS ALONE IN PRESSING FOR ARAB PAYMENT OF COSTS AS PER INSTRUCTIONS AND ONLY FRG WILLING TO INTERVENE ON BASIS ARABIC USE WAS TO HAVE NO FURTHER BUDGET BEYOND THAT FORESEEN UNDER PROVISIONAL BUDGETARY CEILING ALREADY VOTED. SWEDE AND FINN DELOFFS WENT ONLY SO FAR AS TO PROMISE INTERVENTIONS PARALLELING FRG POSITION PROVIDED US CONTINUED TO TAKE LEAD IN INTERVENTIONS AGAINST ARABIC.

5. SOVIETS RAISED BUDGETARY ASPECTS BUT ONLY AFTER ANNOUNCING "WARM" SUPPORT FOR ORIGINAL ARAB RESOLUTION.

6. FORTUNATELY FOR CREDIBILITY OF US IMPARTIALITY
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PAGE 03 PARIS 25544 01 OF 02 291924Z

TOWARDS ALL LANGUAGES THAT DELOFF STRESSED AS BASIS OF US POSITION THIS ISSUE, ITEMS ENTAILING TWO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WITH SPANISH-SPEAKING BLOC ENDORSEMENT ALSO CAME UP DURING DISCUSSIONS OF ARABIC ITEM: ONE SUBMITTED BY VENEZUELA (18 C/DR.148) CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE SPANISH TRANSLATION OF ALL DOCUMENTS IN A CERTAIN UNESCO PROGRAM; ANOTHER BY SPAIN AND LA'S (18 C/ADM/DR.1) CALLING FOR PRESENTATION TO 19TH

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF A SCHEME "GIVING SPANISH LANGUAGE SAME TREATMENT IN UNESCO AS THE MORE WIDELY USED WORKING LANGUAGES." VENEZUELA DR WAS WITHDRAWN IN FAVOR OF LATTER.

7. IN OCTOBER 25 INTERVENTION DELOFF HIT HARD ON COSTS ASPECT, AND SAID US APPRECIATIVE VENEZUELAN DR WITHDRAWN

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25544 02 OF 02 291922Z

53

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-06 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 L-01 OIC-02

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R 291851Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3671
INFO USINT ALGIERS
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 25544

VOLUNTARILY BECAUSE US WOULD HAVE HAD TO OPPOSE IF "PAY-FOR-WHAT-YOU-USE" NOT A CONDITION AND CONSIDERATION PRESERVING UNESCO PROVISIONAL BUDGETARY CEILING. DELOFF VOTED FOR STUDY OF GREATER SPANISH USE AND, ULTIMATELY, ARABIC IMPLEMENTATION STUDY WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THIS LEFT US POSITION UNCHANGED AS TO

ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION.

8. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT DISCUSSIONS LATIN AMERICAN AND ARAB INTERVENTIONS CHARACTERIZED BY STRESS ON DEPTH OF FEELING AND SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED IN GAINING "DIGNITY," "RIGHT OF EXPRESSION," "NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT" AND, IMPLICITLY, RESENTMENT OF "PRIVILEGED" POSITION ENJOYED BY FRENCH AND ESPECIALLY ENGLISH.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 25544 02 OF 02 291922Z

9. JUST AS STRIKINGLY, IT WAS CLEAR THAT EVERY OTHER BIG DONOR, INCLUDING SOVIETS, IS UNWILLING TO PAY POLITICAL PRICE FOR OPPOSING WORKING LANGUAGE PROLIFERATION IN UNESCO. US OPPOSITION THEREFORE WILL NOT, IN ANY CASE, BE SUFFICIENT TO TURN THE TIDE. MOREOVER, US OPPOSITION AT UNESCO QUITE READILY MISINTERPRETED AS POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED, NO MATTER HOW CLEARLY OR OFTEN POSITION EXPLAINED, BECAUSE POSITIONS VIRTUALLY EVERY OTHER MEMBER STATE ARE ULTIMATELY DECIDED ACCORDING TO POLITICAL MERITS.

US OPPOSITION, IF FORCED, ON ARABIC THIS TIME WOULD HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY, IF INCORRECTLY TIED, TO AN ANTI-ARAB STANCE.
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